

**Baptist Ministers' Night Conference of  
Baltimore and Vicinity (BMNCBV)**

**5405 York Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21212, (443) 386.4739**



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 26  
BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**BY REV. DR. SANDRA CONNER, PRESIDENT, BMNCBV  
February 2, 2023**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony for a very important health bill that will automatically grant Medicaid eligibility to children and adults enrolled in SNAP. BMNCBV acknowledges that Maryland has some of the best health systems in the country. It is our understanding that it is ranked 5th in the nation for having the best healthcare system; and we applaud this achievement. However, we believe more can and should be done to improve access to healthcare/coverage and to reduce inequities.

This legislation would help over 60,000 uninsured Marylanders get the health coverage they need, including 23,000 Black Marylanders and 28,000 Latinos, making this a way to dramatically reduce the levels of uninsured in Maryland while at the same time improving health equity. This legislation would also eliminate paperwork currently required for over half a million SNAP recipients in Maryland to renew their Medicaid benefits, creating administrative savings for Maryland. In addition, this bill would improve other social determinants of health by streamlining utility assistance enrollment, expanding access to energy and water assistance, and automatically enrolling seniors into SNAP if they qualify for Supplemental Security Income.

We believe this bill, SB 26, will make some improvements in health coverage and access to health care for the communities that we serve. We pray that our legislators will heed our call and give a favorable report.

We thank you in advance for your actions towards SB 26.

Rev. Dr. Sandra Conner

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